

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Sept. 18, 1916.

*Clarence McDonald*  
*Euclid Ave 1765*

Bishop Joseph C. McDonald,  
Daniel Ward.

Dear Brother:

The Presidency of your Stake have notified this office of your appointment and ordination as Bishop of Daniel Ward.

In accordance with the instructions of the First Presidency, as contained in paragraph 68 of the Circular of Instructions 12, and the laws of Utah, we send you today Certificate No. B-657 of your appointment and ordination. A certified copy of same has been sent to the Stake Clerk with instructions to file with the County Recorder. This transfers the title to all Church property in your ward without further legal process.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of certificate on the enclosed printed form, and oblige

Your brethren in the Gospel,

THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC.

By 

(Enc. 2)

Reg.

**Childhood Home of Joseph C McDonald**  
(Located in Heber City, Utah at 400 North 100 West, 1885)



Some family members of Joseph's father, Joseph Smith McDonald: James X., John, Mary Ann, probably William in high chair (son of Joseph Smith McDonald and his second wife, Mary Melinda Jones), Mary Melinda holding baby Nancy Ella Shelton, Joseph Smith McDonald, Isaac standing in front, *Joseph C*, Sarah Jane McDonald Shelton, James Alfred Shelton with their son Alfred Leslie in front. *Joseph C* is third from the right, wearing suspenders. This is the only picture we have of him when he was a young man.

Correction: The young woman between William in the high chair and Mary Melinda holding the baby is Rachel, daughter of Joseph S. and his first wife Nancy Elizabeth Cummings.



*Minnie and Joseph (Buzzy)  
1916 -- the year they were married*

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. McDonald

request your presence at their

Twentieth Wedding Anniversary

January twenty-fifth,

nineteen hundred and thirty-six.

At their residence in Heber R. H. B., Utah.

Seven thirty P. M.

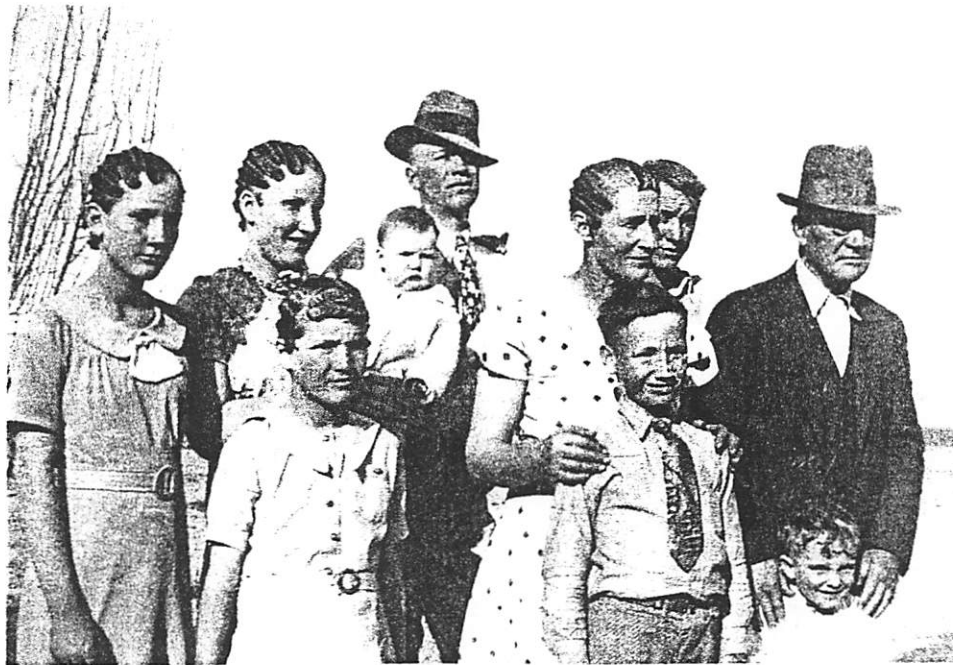
*Hiram McDonald*

1936 was their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

The invitation above has been lovingly saved by their son, Hiram.  
He describes it as "the house just bouncing with so many having a wonderful time."



**Minnie and Joseph**  
(unsure of date)



***Minnie's and Joseph's Family -- 1935***

*Back Row: Leah; Eugena, Gwen, and Evans Carlen, Vernon*

*Middle Row: Barbara, Minnie and Joseph*

*Front Row: Hiram and Glenn*





**Left:** The spacious barn was not only the home for many of the farm animals, but also a summer playhouse for the children and their friends in its cool interior. Joseph spent many hours milking cows and putting up hay for the winter. It was a central part of the farm.

**Right:** The Daniel Ward Church was the social and spiritual center of Daniel. Joseph was in the Bishopric of Daniel Ward for 26 years -- 13 as counselor and 13 years as Bishop.



### **Dairyman**

Joseph loved his prize Jersey cattle, taking many of them to the County Fair. He won many blue ribbons. The milk wagon was used to deliver milk in Heber City. Note the inscription on the side, "Jersey Milk and Cream."



*Joseph with his youngest child, Glenn.  
Vernon and Leah are at the right*



*Thanksgiving Day -- 1936*

Four men on top row: Evans Carlen, Henry Wathen, Vernon, Kenneth Witt

Second row: *Minnie and Joseph*, Leah, Hiram, Delores and Clifford McDonald, Theora Witt

Third row: Eugena Carlen holding Gwen, Barbara, Olena McDonald, Shanna Dean Witt, JoAnn Witt, Wanda Wathan

Three boys in the front are Glenn, Wayne, and Russell McDonald, and old Ring (the dog)

*Thanksgiving has always been a special holiday for the McDonald family with parents, children, grandchildren gathering to enjoy the day and give thanks. Joseph died about eight months after this picture was taken.*

# MARRIAGE LICENSE

The State of Utah, Wasatch County, to any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriage, Greeting:  
YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO JOIN IN HOLY MATRIMONY

Mr Joseph C. McDonald of Daniel in the County of Wasatch  
and State of Utah, of the age of 49 years and Mrs Minnie S. Witt of Glen  
in the County of Wasatch and State of Utah, of the age of 30 years



Witness my hand and official seal this 24th day of January 1916  
Chas E. Bronson County Clerk, Wasatch County, Utah,  
By Mattie Clegg Deputy Clerk.

The State of Utah, }  
County of Salt Lake } ss. I hereby certify that on the 24th day of Jan. 24-1916 in the year of our Lord  
One Thousand Nine Hundred and at Salt Lake City in said County,  
I, the undersigned an Elder of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S. did join in the Holy Bonds of Matrimony, according to law  
Joseph C. McDonald of the County of Wasatch State of Utah, and  
Minnie S. Witt of the County of Wasatch State of Utah, the  
nature of the ceremony was according to the rites of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S. the civil law, and was a present  
mutual agreement of marriage between the parties for all time.

WE WERE MARRIED AS STATED IN THIS CERTIFICATE AND ARE NOW HUSBAND AND WIFE.

Signed: Joseph C. McDonald  
GROOM.

Signed: Minnie S. Witt  
In the presence of BRIDE.

John Keff  
Christian Christensen } Witnesses.

Adolph Madison  
an Elder of the C. of J. C. of L. D. S.

Filed for Record this 2nd day of February A. D. 1916.  
By Deputy. Chas. E. Bronson Clerk.

**HUSBAND** Joseph C MCDONALD

Born 8 Oct 1866 Place Heber City, Wasatch, Utah

Chr. 14 Sep 1867 Place

Marr. 26 Jan 1916 Place Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah

Died 2 Jul 1937 Place Daniel, Wasatch, Utah

Bur. 7 Jul 1937 Place Heber City, Wasatch, Utah

HUSBAND'S FATHER Joseph S MCDONALD HUSBAND'S MOTHER Nancy Elizabeth CUMMINGS

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES 1) Mary Elizabeth GILES (22 Feb 1886)

**WIFE** 2) Minnie SONDEREGGER

Born 9 Sept 1885 Place Midway, Wasatch, Utah

Chr.  Place

Died 22 Nov 1968 Place Heber City, Wasatch, Utah

Bur. 25 Nov 1968 Place Heber City, Wasatch, Utah

WIFE'S FATHER Johannes SONDEREGGER WIFE'S MOTHER Bertha BUEHLER

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS James Taylor WITT (6 June 1906)

RELATION OF ABOVE TO HUSBAND Dau RELATION OF ABOVE TO WIFE Dau

FOUR GENERATION SHEETS FOR FILING ONLY  
YES ☐ NO ☐

DATE SUBMITTED TO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**LDS ORDINANCE DATA**

BAPTIZED (Date)	ENDOWED (Date)	SEALED TO HIS WIFE TO HUSBAND'S CHILDREN TO PARENTS
27 Aug 1876	25 Oct 1893	Do Not Seal
21 Oct 1894		
23 May 1925	9 Sep 1954	BIC
27 Nov 1927	24 Sep 1946	BIC
10 Nov 1929	16 Oct 1940	BIC
12 Feb 1933	6 Mar 1952	BIC
13 Jan 1935	16 Sep 1946	BIC
9 Jun 1940	30 Jun 1954	BIC

SEX M F	CHILDREN List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names SURNAME	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE TO WHOM	WHEN DIED DAY MONTH YEAR	WIFE	HUSBAND
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY				
F	Eugena MCDONALD	10	Feb	1917	Daniel	Wasatch	Utah	24 Dec 1934 Casper Evans CARLEN	23 Nov 1993	21 Oct 1894	SL
M	Vernon J MCDONALD	8	Nov	1919	"	"	"	24 Sept 1946 Louise HEATON		23 May 1925	SG
F	Leah MCDONALD	28	Oct	1921	"	"	"	3 Jul 1940 Earl Watson HOUTZ		27 Nov 1927	SL
M	Hiram Smith MCDONALD	27	Jan	1925	"	"	"	6 Mar 1952 Anne Mauree RASBAND		10 Nov 1929	SL
F	Barbara MCDONALD	15	Dec	1926	"	"	"	16 Sept 1946 John Melvin MOULTON		12 Feb 1933	SG
M	Blenn Alvin MCDONALD	29	Feb	1932	"	"	"	14 July 1954 Carol HERTELL		13 Jan 1935	LG
										9 Jun 1940	BIC

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**  
On reverse side

**OTHER MARRIAGES**

**NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS**  
#3 Leahs birth certificate states born 27 Oct 1921. Mother state she was born 28 Oct 1921.  
#4 Hiram changed spelling of name from Hiram to Hiram by common usage.

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, VT.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER  
DATES: 14 Apr 1994GROUP  
RECORD

Genealogical  
Data  
For  
Husband

**HUSBAND** Joseph C. McDonald

Birth 8 Oct 1866 Place Heber, Wasatch, Utah

\*Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Death 2 Jul 1937 Place Daniel, Wasatch, Utah

Burial 6 Jul 1937 Place Heber, Wasatch, Utah

Father Joseph Smith McDonald Mother Nancy Elizabeth Cummings

Married 22 Feb 1886 Place Heber, Wasatch, Utah

†Other Wives (if any) 2) Minnie Sonderegger 26 Jan 1916

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?  
Family Records of Joseph C McDonald

**HUSBAND'S**  
Name (in full) \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife \_\_\_\_\_

TEMPLE ORDINANCE DATA

HUSBAND 27 Aug 1876  
Baptized 19 Nov 1881  
Endowed 25 Oct 1893

(Relationship of Family Representative to Husband)

Genealogical  
Data  
For  
Wife

**WIFE** 1) Mary Elizabeth Giles

Birth 9 Oct 1867 Place Heber, Wasatch, Utah

\*Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Death 25 Feb 1912 Place Daniel, Wasatch, Utah

Burial 27 Feb 1912 Place Heber, Wasatch, Utah

Father George Thomas Giles Mother Sarah Daybell

Family Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person submitting this sheet. \_\_\_\_\_

**WIFE**  
Baptized 29 Aug 1877  
Endowed 25 Oct 1893  
Sealed to Husband 25 Oct 1893

(Relationship of Family Representative to Wife)

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

\*Christening date requested only in line of birth date (not LDS Church blessing).  
†List other wives or husbands in order of marriage.  
‡List complete maiden names for all females.

Sex M F	CHILDREN		WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED (First Husband or Wife) List Additional Marriages with Dates on Reverse Side of Sheet		BAPTIZED (Date)	ENDOWED (Date)	SEALED To Parents Date & Temple
	List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.					
M	1	George Clarence McDonald	18	Dec	1886	Park City	Summit	Utah	25	Nov	1956	Date <u>8 May 1907</u> To <u>Mary Geneva Bell</u>	16 Aug 1896	8 May 1907	25 Oct 1893	
M	2	Giles McDonald	15	Apr	1891	Heber	Wasatch	Utah	28	Sept	1948	Date <u>15 June 1912</u> To <u>Maud Webb</u>	3 May 1902	23 Mar 1953	25 Oct 1893	
M	3	Fay McDonald	7	May	1894	Heber	Wasatch	Utah	12	July	1894	Date _____ To _____	Child	Child	BIC	
M	4	Paul McDonald	10	Aug	1895	Heber	Wasatch	Utah	27	Nov	1909	Date _____ To _____	29 Aug 1903	18 Oct 1927	BIC	
F	5	Gora McDonald	20	Jul	1897	Heber	Wasatch	Utah	4	Nov	1971	Date <u>23 June 1920</u> To <u>Henry Alexander Wathen</u>	30 Jul 1905	25 Jun 1920	BIC	
M	6	Walter McDonald	29	Jan	1901	Park City	Summit	Utah	17	Dec	1959	Date <u>14 Aug 1924</u> To <u>Elma Luella Alder</u>	31 Dec 1909	1 Apr 1932	BIC	
F	7	Lilly McDonald	1	Jan	1903	Daniel	Wasatch	Utah	23	Jan	1903	Date _____ To _____	Child	Child	BIC	
M	8	Clifford McDonald	3	Apr	1904	Daniel	Wasatch	Utah	18	July	1949	Date <u>3 Jun 1925</u> To <u>Lucy Delores Casper</u>	3 Apr 1912	3 Jun 1925	BIC	
	9											Date _____ To _____				
	10											Date _____ To _____				
	11											Date _____ To _____				
	12											Date _____ To _____				
	13											Date _____ To _____				
	14											Date _____ To _____				
	15											Date _____ To _____				



*History  
of  
Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald*



*Minnie S. McDonald -- "an exemplary mother"*

*Compiled and edited by  
Hiram and Anne Rasband McDonald*

(Minnie McDonald was honored by being named 1962 Wasatch County "Mother of the Year." She was then a nominee for the "Utah Mother of the Year." This history was written at that time and submitted to the Utah American Mothers Committee along with three letters of recommendation.)

### **Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald**

*Written by Hiram McDonald and Barbara McDonald Moulton with family contributions*

*The home where happiness securely dwells  
Was never wrought by charms or magic spells.  
A mother made it beautiful, but knew  
No magic save what toiling hands can do  
-- Arthur Wallace Peach  
"The Reasons"*

Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald -- daughter of a Swiss immigrant mother who was widowed with eight young children, and herself widowed twice with young families to raise -- is a perfect example of this little poem. Yet with a life burdened with toil, fraught with financial cares, she somehow managed to find time for service to others, to her church, her community and her family.

Minnie Sonderegger was born Sept. 9, 1885, in Midway, Wasatch County, Utah, one of nine children of Swiss immigrants who had joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Switzerland. Her parents migrated to Utah from Switzerland, Johannes (John) Sonderegger in 1872 and Bertha Buehler shortly afterwards. They first met in Salt Lake City and were married Feb. 13, 1879 in the Salt Lake Endowment House. The couple moved to Midway where they homesteaded a quarter section of land, adding 42 acres later to the family farm.

It was on this farm that Minnie spent her young girlhood. She was only eight years old when her mother was widowed in 1893 with eight young children, the oldest 15 and the youngest 15 months old.

The father's death left the young family with very limited resources and all the children old enough sought any type of work that might augment the family's meager income.

During this time Minnie spent many long hours weeding grain for 35 cents a day, working from sunup to sundown along with the other children to help provide a living for the family. This was the only type of work available to the young children. During this period they also took care of the farm, herding cows, helping to harvest the hay and doing other farm jobs.

Even with these long hours of work, Minnie was able to gain a double promotion in the grade school of Midway. She went on to complete all of the schooling that was available in the schools of Wasatch County at that time.

As Minnie grew older her occupation changed but never the back-breaking toil. She began doing house work for employment when she was only 12 years old. At age 14 she hired out as a waitress at a mining camp in Snake Creek Canyon in what is now the

Wasatch State Park area, and at 16 she took over all the cooking for 25 men at the mining camp. She continued at the camp during the summer months until she was about 18.

At that point Minnie moved to Park City to cook at another boarding house for two years. Here she cooked, ironed the miners' clothes, made beds, waited on tables and cleaned house for 12 miners.

Minnie would begin her day at 4:30 a.m. Since she was cooking for three shifts, she had to prepare three breakfasts every morning, the first at 5 a.m. Her day didn't end until 11 p.m. each night when she finished the house cleaning so it would be ready for breakfast.

Minnie met her first husband, James Taylor Witt, a mine superintendent, at the Mountain Lake mine exploration site three years before they were married. James, a red-headed Englishman, captured Minnie's fancy almost from the first. They were married in Midway June, 1906. The marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple in 1911.

Two sons were born to the couple, Melvin in 1907 and Kenneth in 1909. The couple bought a house in Heber City in June, 1907 for \$2,800 and paid for it in full by Nov. 1 the same year through mining stock transactions. Jim was earning \$5 a day at the time. During this time the little family was supremely happy. Jim had full employment, the couple had two fine sons and owned their own small home.

Then tragedy struck. While working in the tunnel at the Mountain Lake mine, Jim's helper picked into a dynamite stick which had failed to explode earlier. The sudden jar exploded the dynamite, blowing a piece of the frozen powder into Jim's leg. The helper was seriously injured and was sent immediately to a hospital where he eventually recovered.

Not so for Jim. The seriousness of his leg injury was not immediately recognized and blood poison set in, taking his life on Jan. 7, 1911. Their two tiny boys were only two and four years old at the time of their father's death.

The little family was left without insurance, only about \$150 in cash and no other resources. To provide for her two boys, Minnie took in washing, did sewing and ironing and cared for the sick. This was her task for five years. During this time she was offered a job and chose her life of washing drudgery rather than face the long separation from her two sons that the job would demand.

Through mutual friends, Minnie met Joseph C McDonald, a widower with five children. A courtship sprang up and they were married Jan. 26, 1916 in the Salt Lake Temple. Three of Joseph's children were still living at home, and these Minnie took under her wing and raised along with her two boys. In the years that followed, six more children were born.

Joseph had spent the previous eight years before his marriage as a first counselor in the Daniel Ward bishopric. And four months after his marriage to Minnie he was sustained as bishop of the ward.

For the next 13 years Minnie lived the life of a bishop's wife. In addition to shouldering much of the burden as sympathetic listening post to her husband's problems, she was made Primary Association president, a position she held for 12 years. She already had served as a Primary counselor for five years in the Heber 2nd Ward, and as a Stake Relief Society Missionary for 1 1/2 years.

During this time she gave birth to four children, taking each in turn with her to Primary meetings and on her various duties. She also had all the work of a growing family plus bottling many bottles of milk and cream, churning and preparing many pounds of butter for the daily morning milk route that Joseph operated from his dairy farm.

Two more children were born, but Joseph was not to live to see his family grow to maturity. He was partially paralyzed by a stroke and died July 2, 1937.

This left Minnie with a second family to raise, six children under the age of 21. The only assets were the home and small farm the family owned.

More years of struggle were in store for Minnie as the family concentrated their efforts on farming in order to make a living. Finally, with her last child in college and left alone, she moved to Heber to a beautiful little home built for her by son Kenneth Witt.

She has done extensive genealogical work, and has kept a keen interest in local, national and worldly affairs. She served for 10 years as secretary of the Daniel Telephone Company.

Throughout her life Minnie has been dedicated to her family, her church and her community. She encouraged her children in music and educational pursuits, as well as church activity.

#### Service to Others:

In addition to her large family including step-children, Minnie has always been a kind and thoughtful neighbor. She cared for her first mother-in-law in her home for several years before and after her second husband's death. During World Wars I and II, she knitted many articles for the Red Cross.

#### Christian Values:

Minnie is the epitome of Christian values. Among her many traits she is generous, especially during the depression years when she never turned away a wanderer who was hungry. In her wise homespun philosophy she always said that she had boys away from home and hoped that someone would be good to them if they were hungry and had to ask strangers for food.

Minnie was never a Boy Scout, of course, but she always had to "Be Prepared." Joseph, himself a picture of generosity, was always asking guests home for a meal on the spur of the moment. Minnie fixed hundreds of meals for unexpected company. Often there weren't many groceries on hand but she always had plenty of wonderful home-made bread, butter, milk, honey and home-canned fruit that they enjoyed.

#### Independent:

All through the lean years of raising her family she refused all help offered by the ward bishop. She sewed patches, but always saw that the children had music lessons. Her reason? "Because people would talk if I accepted help when they know the children are taking piano lessons all the time."

#### Industrious:

At 76 Minnie is busier now than when she had all her family at home. Her children, grandchildren and friends are the recipients of many beautiful pieces of handiwork, quilts which she pieces together and personally does practically all the quilting, pillowcases, afghans, knit articles, crocheting, etc. Likewise, friends and

neighbors enjoy her wonderful home-baked goods that she is so generous to share. These handiwork items and baked goods always win blue ribbons for her at the county fair.

She has several projects going at the same time and when she gets tired doing one thing she just shifts to the next project on which she is working. She does all her own housework, mows her own lawn and still fills all her fruit bottles and buys more fruit each year so she will have enough to feed the family when they come home to visit or to give to them as they return home. All her life she has worked long hours, arising always before daylight and retiring long after the last child was put to bed.

#### Hobbies:

Minnie's sparkling interest in life undoubtedly is one of the secrets of her good health and keen spirit. Besides her needlework, quilting, etc., she loves gardening and is continually planting, pruning and watering a host of beautiful plants both inside and outside the house. Her children claim that if she left the house for six months it would turn into a jungle.

Minnie also loves to travel. New places and new faces are a keen delight to her. She has visited most of the LDS temples in the United States, Canada, the Palmyra pageant, and last year took her first plane ride, a trans-continental trip by jet from Boston to Salt Lake City a week before her 76th birthday.

Her house is spotless and tidy, just as it always has been. She has been so particular about her clothes that she used to iron practically everything that went through the washer, including underwear and stockings.

#### Children:

Her children run the gamut of occupational interests and have enjoyed a great measure of success in their chosen work.

The oldest, Melvin J. Witt, is a power plant electrician and operator in Moccasin, California. He attended Wasatch High School and the San Francisco Electrical Engineering School. He worked for many years as an electrician in the Oakland Ship Yards and presently is employed at one of the main power plants for the city of San Francisco. He is married to the former Elizabeth Drabner and they have a son and daughter.

Kenneth S. Witt attended Wasatch High School and studied contracting and carpentry through an Eastern States correspondence course. He is now owner of Witt Construction Co., well-known contracting firm in Utah and Wyoming. He is past president of the Associated General Contractors, Intermountain Branch, and recently served as chairman of that organization's safety committee.

Two of his projects in which he takes the most pride are the \$2 million Orem High School and the town of Dutch John at the Flaming Gorge dam site which grew from the wastelands with his contracts. Kenneth is married to the former Theora Humes and they have five children.

Eugena was graduated from Wasatch Stake Seminary and received her high school diploma three children and many years later in Provo. She has been active in church work, serving as Primary teacher for five years, MIA sports director and activity counselor. At present she is Relief Society work director counselor, a position she has held for nearly six years in her ward in Springville. She is married to Evans Carlen and they have three children.



Vernon J. attended Wasatch High School and currently is working as a line driver for Pacific Intermountain Express. He has been the recipient of two safe-driving awards from this company, one two-year award and one eight-year award. He holds the office of an elder in the church. He married the former Louise Heaton in the St. George Temple and they are the parents of one child. They live in Salt Lake City.

Leah was graduated from Wasatch Stake Seminary and Wasatch High School, where she won several sewing honors and was a member of the school band. She worked as a nurse at the Heber Hospital for eight years. She has been active in the church all her life, serving for four years as Wasatch Stake Bluebird and Firelight leader in the Primary Association and worked in the Midway Second Ward Primary for 10 years. She also served as YWMLA president, drama director and secretary of the genealogical committee in Midway Second Ward. She is a Golden Gleaner. At present she is ward organist, Relief Society organist and a Primary teacher. She married Earl Houtz in the Salt Lake Temple and they have five children. She loves genealogy work and is an expert seamstress.

Hiram S. was graduated from Wasatch Stake Seminary and as an honor student from Wasatch High School. He served 2 1/2 years in the U.S. Army, 18 months of it overseas during World War II where he served in four battle campaigns and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He attended Brigham Young University and was graduated with honors from Utah State University. He did post-graduate work at the University of Michigan.

While at Utah State he edited the student newspaper and organized and served as president of the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Press Assn., which included most of the major colleges and universities in the Intermountain area. He presently is assistant sports editor of the Deseret News and is co-owner of a laundry and dry-cleaning business in Bountiful. He is an elder in the church and has served in the Grant Third Ward YWMLA superintendency and currently is a priesthood teacher and Millcreek Stake Explorer leader in Salt Lake City. He married the former Anne Rasband in the Salt Lake Temple and they have four children.

Barbara was graduated from Wasatch High School as valedictorian of her class and served on the student council and as a studentbody officer. She also was graduated from Wasatch Stake Seminary. She attended Brigham Young University on an awarded scholarship and worked as a secretary and stenographer during her school years to help pay expenses. She was a member of the high school band and Pep Club.

She presently is serving as Heber Sixth Ward Primary president and ward organist. She has been active in church all her life, including Sunday School teacher, Sunday School organist, Stake Primary organist and Relief Society teacher. She also sings with a choral group, the Choralettes, is a 4-H leader and has served as a Parent-Teacher Association officer. She also is secretary and bookkeeper of her husband's farm machinery business in Heber. Barbara married John Melvin Moulton in the Salt Lake Temple and they have two children.

Glenn A. also was graduated from Wasatch High School as an honor student and from Wasatch Stake Seminary. He attended Utah State University and graduated with an Air Science degree from the University of Utah. He was commissioned and served four and one-half years in the Air Force as a navigator.

Glenn received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his part in saving a huge Constellation radar plane in a harrowing experience which gained newspaper headlines and has since been adopted as procedure for stricken aircraft by the Air Force. Glenn's radar plane lost two of its four engines while returning to Hawaii from a mission involved with tracking a Discoverer satellite as it returned to earth. All electrical equipment, including navigational equipment, went out so Glenn had to navigate approximately 300 miles of ocean without the use of electronic navigational aids.

Glenn returned to his studies at the University of Utah and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. He currently is employed as an electrical engineer at Kennecott Copper Co. He also is a captain and a navigator instructor in the Air National Guard.

He has been active in the church all his life, starting as Daniel Ward organist at 14. He is serving in the Winder Sixth Ward Elder's Quorum presidency and is also ward organist. He has served as Sunday School organist and MIA chorister in Houston, Texas, and MIA chorister and Sunday School teacher in Sacramento, Calif. He married the former Carol Hertell in the Salt Lake Temple and they have three children. They reside in Salt Lake City.

Cora McDonald Wathen, step-daughter, married Henry Wathen, now a retired rancher, in the Salt Lake Temple. She graduated from Wasatch High School and attended Brigham Young Academy. She has been active in church work all her life, serving in various capacities in auxiliaries of the church. She and her husband have three children and live in Murray.

The other step-children have all passed away. Giles McDonald of Hinckley, a miner and farmer, died in 1948; Clarence McDonald, Salt Lake City, a retired railroad engineer, died in 1956; Walter McDonald, Heber, miner and plumber, died in 1959; Clifford McDonald, Heber, an expert cabinetmaker and carpenter, died in 1949.

And so through the years, Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald remains a shining example of stalwart characteristics to her eight children, one step-daughter, 25 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She has counseled them well with wisdom, love, faith, thriftiness, honesty and kindness as all who know her will testify. She is an outstanding example of true motherhood.

# Nomination Blank for the Mother of the State of UTAH 1962

(The American Mother will be chosen from among the 52 State Mothers selected by the 50 States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico)

I hereby nominate for State Mother Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald  
(Give full name, including maiden name)

whose address is 48 North 2nd East, Heber, Utah

(Signed) Marvel M. Murdoch  
(Address) 959 E. 1st, Heber, Utah  
(Organization, if any)

Date Feb. 25, 1962

Name of State Chairman Mrs. Walter A. Kerr

In the space below, please answer the following questions about your nominee:

- Age 76 2. Where born Midway, Utah
- Where educated (If holder of college degrees, please so state) Wasatch County Schools, Utah
- With what religion is the nominee affiliated? Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- To what local or national organization does the nominee belong? Describe her activities fully participating and active member of Daughters of Utah Pioneers, (honorary member), & Relief Society, Red Cross
- List other activities of the nominee active in L.D.S. Church, other past offices listed in history
- Husband living? no His name  Occupation

Interests

8. Mother of how many children eight (Describe as fully as possible) and 1 step-daughter (living) + step sons (deceased) & two mature sons and one daughter  
(Please list full names, ages, occupations and complete addresses)
- |                                |               |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Name <u>Melvin J. Witt</u>     | Age <u>55</u> | Occupation <u>electrical engineer &amp; operator at power plant for city of S.F.</u> |
| Name <u>Kenneth S. Witt</u>    | Age <u>53</u> | Occupation <u>building contractor, owner of Witt Constr. Co.</u>                     |
| Name <u>Eugene M. Carlen</u>   | Age <u>45</u> | Occupation <u>homemaker</u>  |
| Name <u>Vernon J. McDonald</u> | Age <u>42</u> | Occupation <u>line driver for Pacific Inter-mountain Express</u>                     |

9. Is this nomination being made with the nominee's knowledge and consent? yes
10. If selected as the State or the National Mother would she: (1) be willing and able to go to New York and take part in the Annual Mothers' Conference and the ceremonies for the presentation of awards: yes  
(2) be willing and able to assist in the program of the American Mothers Committee, i.e., Counselor Service to Young Mothers? yes
11. Attach only 3 letters of reference from one person in each of the following categories: Religion; Education; Civics or Government. In addition, give a full written account of the family life and background.
12. Please tell us on reverse side or additional sheets of paper what in your opinion entitles the nominee to be considered for State Mother and the National Mother.

(It is recommended that supporting material be limited to Nos. 11 and 12.)

NOTE: This blank must be returned to the State Chairman accompanied by a good recent photograph of the nominee. SNAPSHOT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

ALL RETURNS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE STATE CHAIRMAN BY MARCH 1st OF EACH YEAR.  
(Over)

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE AMERICAN MOTHER

- First that she be a successful mother, as evidenced by the character and achievements of her individual children.
- Second that she be an active member of a religious body.
- Third that she embody those traits highly regarded in mothers; courage, cheerfulness, patience, affection, kindness, understanding and a homemaking ability.
- Fourth that she exemplify in her life and conduct the precepts of the Golden Rule.
- Fifth that she have a sense of responsibility in civic affairs and that she be active in service for public benefit.
- Sixth that she be qualified to represent the Mothers of America in all responsibilities attached to her role as the National Mother.

Use space below and additional paper for any questions requiring supplementary answers. Refer to them by number.

E. Leah M. Houtz Midway, Utah	age <u>40</u>	Occupation:	homemaker and nurse
Hiram S. McDonald 575 E. 3665 So., Salt Lake City	" <u>37</u> B.S. U.S.U.		Assistant Sports Editor, Deseret News; co-owner of laundry & dry-cleaning business
Barbara M. Moulton 127 E. 3rd No., Heber, Utah	" <u>35</u>		homemaker and secretary-bookkeeper
Glenn A. McDonald 4345 So. Conrad St., Salt Lake City	" <u>30</u> B.S. U.S.U.		Electrical Engineer at Kennecott Copper Co.
Cora M. Wathen (step-daughter) 4890 Wasatch St., Murray, Utah	" <u>63</u>		homemaker

*4 more step children (now deceased)*

1. The youngest child of nominee must not be less than 15 years of age.
2. Any legal Mother is eligible with the exception of a divorced Mother ( a broken home, no matter for what reason, is disqualified).
3. All questions on Nomination blank must be answered. Failure to comply with this regulation disqualifies the nominee.
4. If return of material submitted is desired, kindly enclose adequate postage.

*A photograph (not a snapshot) must accompany this application.*

The State Chairman will send all data concerning the selected State Mother to National Headquarters, American Mothers Committee, Inc., Hotel Shelton, 525 Lexington Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

Irvin O. Bowden  
President

Wilson L. Young  
Vice President

Ferrin D. Van Wagoner  
Superintendent

Ralph F. Giles  
Clerk & Treasurer

# Wasatch County School District

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

173 East Second North

Box 217

HEBER CITY, UTAH

February 21, 1962

J. Linden Chapman

Irvin O. Bowden

O. Tracy Hicken

Wilson L. Young

Walter H. Seiter

Mother of the Year  
Selection Committee  
Heber City, Utah

Dear Committee Members:

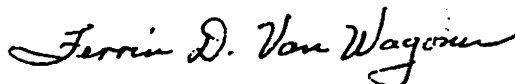
I take pleasure and pride in recommending for your consideration Mrs. Minnie McDonald. Mrs. McDonald has these attributes and personal characteristics which we commonly associate with the highest type of motherhood. Her life has been devoted to the care and guidance of her family.

Life has not been easy for Mrs. McDonald yet she has met hardship without complaining and assumed care of a large family when the father was taken. Often this meant real hard manual work under conditions which a person with less courage and love for her children might have given up.

The fine family she has reared stands as a monument to her perseverance. While busily engaged in caring for her children, Mrs. McDonald has found time to render valuable service to her church and the community. She is loved and respected by all fortunate enough to come within the sphere of her influence.

I personally urge you to give careful consideration to this fine mother when your final selection is made. She is most deserving of any honor she might receive.

Yours respectfully,



Ferrin D. Van Wagoner  
Superintendent of Schools

FDVW:ml





# Wasatch Chamber of Commerce

HEBER, UTAH

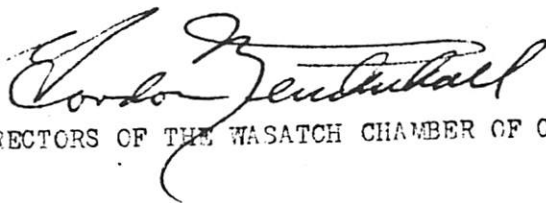
February 23, 1962

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing this letter in behalf of Mrs. Minnie McDonald who has been named Mother of the Year for Wasatch County. I am honored for this privilege to recommend this outstanding woman to you. I have known her for twelve years, and during that period of time, I have had business dealings with her, associated with her in a religious way, and also on social occasions. I know of no woman who has reared a better family, and who have prepared themselves for life more completely than her children. This has been made possible because of her examples and her conservative ways. Part of the time she has reared her family without the assistance of a husband.

In my financial dealings with this woman, she at all times met them on time, and as agreed. She has a deep belief in duty and lives as closely to the principle which it represents. Her honesty is unquestioned, and her service to others has always been most generous. It is without hesitation that I recommend this wonderful woman to you.

Sincerely yours,



DIRECTORS OF THE WASATCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
HEBER SIXTH WARD BISHOPRIC  
WASATCH STAKE  
HEBER, UTAH

February 21, 1962

Mrs. Walter A. Kerr  
Utah Mother's Association  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mrs. Kerr:

Mrs. Minnie S. W. McDonald of Heber City has been nominated to represent Wasatch County in the 1962 Utah Mother of the Year Program. It becomes my opportunity to recommend this fine woman to you and your committee.

Mrs. McDonald first came to my attention some years ago when three of her younger children were students of mine in the Wasatch Stake Seminary. I noted then the remarkable pattern of her life and the excellence of the training she had given her children.

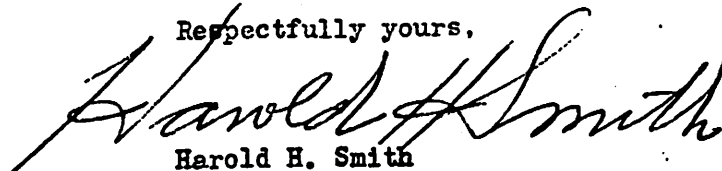
In more recent years I have had many business relationships with Mrs. McDonald and several of her children and have found a most high pattern of moral and business integrity.

For more than seven years it has been my honor to serve as Bishop of the L.D.S. Ward in which she makes her home. In this relationship I have come to know Mrs. McDonald in the unique pattern that most Bishops know their ward members and have also had opportunity to become better acquainted with all of her children who have come to visit with her and usually accompany her to church services.

She is remarkably successful as a mother in the sense that all of her children are fine upstanding citizens of the United States; each showing distinction in his or her particular vocation and each follows a maternal example in assuming community and or church responsibilities in service to others.

Mrs. McDonald is a pleasant and charming woman. Though very modestly unassuming she is known and loved by the citizens of this entire county.

Respectfully yours,

  
Harold H. Smith

## MEMORIES OF MY CHILDHOOD HOME

By Leah McDonald Houtz

I remember Dad taking us to fun places like the Red Ledges north of Heber, Buehler's Hot Pots for our Saturday bath, Liberty Park where we went down the sidewalk with the car and wondered why the boy on the bicycle stared at us when we bounced over the curb.

Dad and Mother took me to Conference in Salt Lake City a few times. Mother's interest in genealogy and Dad's temple work had a great impact in my life. Mother sent to Switzerland and paid Julius Billeter to start our research. That gave us the foundation for my future research.

Dad was a wonderful, caring bishop. He walked the length of Daniel every month to see how everyone was. He gave Celia McGuire, I think it was, a blessing promising she would have children after she had tried for some years. Mother said Dad was so excited about her getting pregnant as he was when she was expecting.

Bill Price came to him for a temple recommend one time and he promised he wouldn't smoke anymore if he would let him go to the temple. He was only home about a month when he started smoking again. Dad always felt responsible for letting him go.

Mother was the last to know about the ward activities. Dad would start to get ready for some activity and say, "Minnie, aren't you going to such and such?"

Dad was a jolly man and loved to josh. That is an old-fashioned word, but it fits Dad. He was always thinking of all the neighbors. Whenever he would go to Heber he would call around the neighborhood and say, "Anyone want to go to Heber?" After he died, there was seldom a neighbor who reciprocated by giving Mother a ride to Heber, and since we didn't have a car she walked that distance many times.

Dad and Mother were good providers. We always had music lessons, school rings, yearbooks, and everything the rest of the classmates had. Our clothes were always clean and pressed. Mother was an excellent seamstress and saw that we always had nice clothes.

A few years ago I went to the Wasatch County Court House to see when our home in Daniel was built and by whom. I found out Dad had borrowed a lot of money for his day to keep up his dairy business.

The sad part of Dad's life was when he mortgaged his Daniel farm to help his first family purchase a farm in Lehi. From then on his life became more difficult until in 1930 after the stock market crash they lost both farms. The only part they saved was the 27 acres and the home with five acres that Mother wouldn't sign over to the loan company. From then on Dad's health became worse until 1937 when he had his fatal stroke.

He had several small strokes before that. As I have grown older, I wondered if his strokes were the result of the pressures he faced at losing most of his life's possessions. With a family of small children still to raise, no wonder he was sick.

Remember when we had so much fun playing hide-and-seek in the alfalfa fields above the orchard? Dad would get after us because we would mash down the lucerne (alfalfa) so it was difficult to cut. But we still did the same thing the next summer.

I remember getting home from school and just getting changed to go pick apples. Mother always insisted we get changed as soon as we arrived home from school. We would pick one apple and eat one, then throw one. I don't think we picked many apples.

We were the only ones from our house to Thacker's to have a telephone. So one of

us was always on the run delivering phone messages. Maude Ella Watson was the worst. She had us call Aunt Maude (Shelton) every day to say, "Good morning." Then at night she called again to say, "Good night."

I also remember Mother speaking Swiss with her sisters so we wouldn't know what she was saying over the telephone.

We and Arthur Berkman were among the few in Daniel to have a car. I remember Hiram was sitting in the middle of the road when Arthur Berkman came along, probably going about 20 miles an hour. Hiram wouldn't move, so he stopped his car and got out and spanked him. Hiram didn't sit in the road anymore.

One day we had the pleasure of riding to church. We seldom took our car such a short distance as to church. After church we went out and got in the car, and Dad came out and got a ride home and forgot he had taken us to church.

Dad was always a patient man. Whenever it came about dinner time we would put the table cloth on and then peel the potatoes. He would just wait.

We had one mean neighbor, and I mean MEAN. Amy Nunley always believed her little Max and took his side. He was such a liar that he got our families in trouble all the time. One day Amy was going to hit Dad with a big stick when Vernon intervened and threw her in the ditch. Whenever we would have words all the neighbors would turn out their lights and come outside to hear what was happening. I don't remember any trouble with anyone until Mrs. Tucker came along.

I remember how thrilled Dad was when Melvin put the bathroom in the house for them. He said it would be nice to do our job in the house before he died.

Whenever someone would come to our home and want to smoke, Dad would tell them that he didn't allow smoking in our home. I was so embarrassed, but so proud of him now.

He was always good to the beggars. He wanted to give them a bed in our home. Mother wouldn't allow that, but would fix a nice meal for them and give them a quilt to sleep in the barn.

Dad and Mother took a trip to Yellowstone for six weeks when Eugena was one year old. Melvin remembers that they camped at Devil's Slide the first night and made one big bed for everyone. One of Mother's favorite stories about that trip concerned coming down Mt. Washburn. Dad had all the boys hold back on the trailer behind the car because his brakes were bad, and they went skidding down the mountain. She refused to ride, but walked down with Eugena.

Dad had 14 children and raised 16. What a man! I can't believe he was born during the Civil War period.

He was born in Heber City. His father, Joseph S. McDonald, homesteaded a tract of land in Daniel and part of Buysville. He divided it among his children: Uncle Ike, John, Dad, Aunt Stella and Uncle Otto.

Dad and Mary Elizabeth were very young when they got married. Mary Elizabeth wanted Dad to do something for him, but he was busy building a kite. It made her angry, so she tore up his kite. To get even, he went into their home and tore up her geraniums.

I remember the old black tithing box. People would come to our home to pay their tithing and for tithing settlement. We never locked our house and always had the box on the shelf as you went down the cellar. I thought bishops were bishops for life, so when they released Dad I was so surprised. I think I was nine years old and would have been 10 in the

fall.

Old Pet was the gentlest, most patient horse we had on the farm. I remember going to Primary with Eugena guiding Old Pet. Every ditch we went through I would fall back and she would have to stop and sit me up again. I guess I wasn't much of a cowboy.

Mother loved to make the table and food look good. We never ate without a neatly-ironed tablecloth. The table also had to be set properly. She insisted we have good table manners. Her cooking was always excellent. I remember when the mothers would bring hot lunch to school once a week. Our mother always brought the best food. Daniel was the first to start hot school lunch in the United States.

The Relief Society started a canning project. They used our wash house with the old coal stove. They had cans and sealers. Many women came to our home to do their summer canning. Mother helped everyone who came and also did all our winter food. I remember the many loads on the big cooker all day and into the night.

Mother always liked to look nice. She wore a hat and gloves everywhere she went, even to the grocery store.

She was an excellent homemaker. She thoroughly cleaned twice a year. Everything was polished from the top of the upstairs to the cellar. Every wash day she would take the lye water and scrub the outhouse until the boards were white. And she was always the first to get her clothes out on the line on Monday mornings.

One time I asked Mother how she disciplined her children and kept them from quarreling. She replied, "I just wouldn't put up with it." That didn't give me much satisfaction.

Dad and Mother had a fresh milk business. Mother would cool the milk in big tubs of cold water and then pour it in the clean washed bottles. Then Dad would take one of us with him to Heber to jump out of the buggy and put the milk on the doorsteps. He advertised soft curd milk on the back of the buggy. It said, "Soft Curd Milk for the Babies. They Cry For It." I guess it came from special cows.

Mother was Primary President through three or four pregnancies. She would push the buggy with one child in it, have one tagging along and another in the incubator and walk to church.

Dad's work was from sunup to sundown, but Mother's work was from 4 a.m. to 2 a.m. She ironed everything from socks, underwear, sheets, rags, etc. I could iron good enough to do the rags.

She loved music. Whenever we would play Chopsticks, she thought it was beautiful. She would much rather Hiram and Glenn played the piano than put up the hay, and they knew it. I never saw my mother idle. She was always knitting, crocheting, darning, patching or something every time she sat down.

Mother lost both husbands and each time with small children, yet I never heard her complain about her lot in life. I wish I could be more like her.

Dad loved to take us to Cora's in Lehi where we would have so much fun. I was so proud of him to know how to get clear to Lehi and not get lost.

I never remember Mother and Dad having a quarrel. One time we knew they were angry at each other over Vernon. Barbara and I discussed it that night in bed and concluded they may get a divorce. I'm sure they had a few talks when we weren't around and maybe they were quite loud, but we never heard a bad word between them. I wish my children could say the same.



We had Family Home Evening long before the Church instigated it. Dad would sit us around the dining room table and read from the Bible. Then our big treat was chocolate-covered popcorn from our garden.

Every Washington's Birthday we would celebrate by Mother making a big freezer full of ice cream. Dad would hitch up the big sleigh and we would ride up the road and take everyone a dish of ice cream to celebrate our first president.

Dad always taught us to accept our callings in the church and fulfill them to the best of our ability. He was a very spiritual man. We had our evening prayers around the dinner table and then sat up to the table and blessed the food. We were taught the law of tithing early. I remember the story Dad taught about the storm coming in the summer when everyone's hay was cut. It was on a Sunday, so most farmers hurried to get their hay in before it was ruined. Dad didn't break the Sabbath and the next spring he got a big price out of his hay that had been rained on. This story made a big impression on me about keeping the Sabbath Day holy.

Christmas time was a wonderful childhood time. We would anxiously wait for daybreak. As soon as Dad would call "Christmas gift" up the stairs we would tumble downstairs and into the living room where the big tree stood in the middle of the floor. I could just imagine Santa Claus filling our stockings with an orange in the toe and candy, pomegranates and nuts. So many wonderful gifts every year.

One year Eugena received a tin walking doll. They sent for it out of the catalog. It looked so cute in the picture, but was far different when it arrived. Every time someone would come to visit, Dad would have Eugena bring out her ugly gray tin doll that had extra-large feet to show them how it walked. All it did was vibrate, and everyone would laugh. Finally Eugena got tired of everyone making fun of her doll. She buried it, but then the pigs dug it up so she buried it in the rock pile up in the orchard.

I don't know how Mother knew so much about good nutrition. She always had balanced meals. I remember she would put calcium in our milk to make our teeth stronger. Every spring and fall she brewed a tea out of herbs to purify our blood. I have never tasted such nasty tea.

Mother took great pride in making her bottled fruit and vegetables look just right. The fruit had to be the right color, not dark, and placed in the bottles just right.

I only remember one spanking from each of my parents. One was Hiram's fault. Dad was trying to have him put the high chair up to the table. It was a youth chair, and Hiram wouldn't do it, so I felt sorry for him and pushed it up to the table myself. Dad spanked me for it.

One time we made honey candy while Mother was gone. When she arrived home she found us by the outside hydrant trying to get the candy to go hard by putting it under the water. I suppose we had honey candy strung from the kitchen to the hydrant. I'm sure our clothes and shoes got in the way, also. When she spanked me I'm sure it must have been her mood, because we must have done worse things.

Mother wasn't a strict disciplinarian, mostly because her own mother was sometimes rather harsh. One time after school she went to see her friend who lived by the Old Mill east of Heber. When she got ready to go home the friend hid her shoes and she had to stay all night. Grandmother Sonderegger went to find her the next morning and didn't even wait for an explanation but whipped her with a buggy whip. Mother decided right there that she would never do that to one of her children. She would always ask for an explanation.

Mother was a great believer in education. We went to school rain, sleet, snow, ice, whatever. About once every year we would try the 9 o'clock sickness. Mother would make us stay in bed all day, and that wasn't much fun.

She also was very definite who she liked and who she didn't. Once she formed an opinion she would very seldom change it.

Saturday night was time for the weekly bath. The oldest had the first bath in clean water, and then on down until the water got dirty. The big tub was placed in the middle of the kitchen by the big coal range.

Our church and all activities were held in the old building that Dad had put up cables to keep it from falling down. It had two stoves in opposite corners. Johnny Carlen saw to it that we didn't waste coal. Freeze first. That was the center of our social life.

One time at the ward party they had a player representing Johnny Carlen. He carried a coal bucket up to the old stove, picked up a huge lump of coal and started to put it in. Just as he was about to drop it in the stove, he changed his mind and picked up a smaller size. But just as he was about to drop that one in, he put it back and picked up a very small chunk of coal and put it in. Needless to say, it got a hearty laugh.

I remember starting meetings when the crowd got there. The sacrament water was passed in a drinking glass from one to another and refilled when it was empty. Everyone tried to find a place on the cup where someone else hadn't drunk from it. The Sunday School classes were held around the main hall. Junior Sunday School was in the basement where we played games most of the time.

We loved to come to Midway to see our cousins. It didn't happen often, but was such a wonderful outing. I loved Midway from the first time I ever came here.

In the winter the water would freeze in our house, so we would have to haul it from the pasture which was about a block away.

Dad and Mother were respected all over the valley and loved by many people. Their 20th wedding anniversary was celebrated at our home in Daniel, and it seemed everyone came. We children had never seen such a fun party in our whole lives.

Our parents have been such a great example for all us children to follow. I have always been proud to say, "I am the daughter of Joe and Minnie McDonald."

***A Tribute to Minnie McDonald given by her daughter, Barbara Moulton,  
on a Mother's Day Program in the Heber Sixth Ward, May 13, 1962.***

*The home where happiness securely dwells  
Was never wrought by charms or magic spells.  
A mother made it beautiful, but knew  
No magic save what toiling hands can do.*

What verse could more beautifully describe my home with our sweet mother in it? Mother of eight children, five step-children, 25 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

As a daughter of a Swiss immigrant mother widowed with eight young children, and she herself widowed twice with young families to raise, life hasn't always been easy, but one would never know by her happy smile and charming personality.

Mother was born in Midway (Utah), one of nine children of Swiss immigrants who had joined the Church in Switzerland. Her parents migrated to Utah where they first met in Salt Lake City, and after their marriage moved to Midway where they homesteaded some land.

This was where Mother's happy, quiet, normal childhood took place. After the death of her father when she was eight, the young family, ranging in age from 15 months to 15 years, was left with very limited resources and all the children old enough sought any type of work that might augment the family's meager income. During this time the children, who had been taught well to carry responsibilities and knew hard work, spent many long hours weeding grain, working from sunup to sundown, taking care of the family farm, herding cows, helping to harvest the hay and doing other farm jobs to help provide a living for the family.

Of course, Mother being the alert and active youngster that she was, I imagine Grandmother Sonderegger threw her hands in the air on several occasions, and rattled on in her native Swiss as to the antics of her young daughter. This would probably happen when several of the daughters were sent off with their lunches and newly-starched sun bonnets early in the morning before sunup, walking to be to their destination a mile or two away by sunup to start their long day's work. I can just hear Grandmother, when at the end of a hot summer day, her daughters came trudging in with their bonnets lopped over their eyes and ears. They had cooled and refreshed their sweating brows by dunking their crisp sunbonnets in the cool mountain streams and replaced them dripping wet on their little hot heads.

To look at the sweet angelic look on Mother's face now, would you believe me when I tell you that she wasn't always an angel? As soon as Grandmother would leave for a shopping tour, leaving instructions not to get into this or that, that was precisely what gave them the ideas for their entertainment while she was away. Grandmother's best dresses and high heels were real fun for little make-believe girls parading up the middle of the dirt road looking back to see how much dust the long dress was stirring up along the way.

And of course, she has always had a sense of humor, but her laughing almost won a spanking for her one time. She was given a long pole and told by her mother to stand guard at a certain point and if that stubborn pig that Grandmother was trying to herd into

the corral came by to hit it with the pole and shoo it the other way. Well – around the corner came the pig with Grandmother right on its heels. But Mother's reflexes weren't fast enough. The pig went by and the boom was lowered directly on Grandmother's head. While Grandmother staggered to regain her senses, Mother had to go into the barn to hide her embarrassed laughter.

She always had a certain bit of spunk about her, too. Last year after a visit with her brother in Boston, she took her first plane ride, a week before her 76th birthday, a jet ride to Salt Lake, just to show her family that she would too do it, even though she had never in her life had a desire to go in an airplane.

Mother was richly endowed with patience. Her rules of discipline weren't gained from Dr. Spock as some modern homemakers' are. Leah well remembers the time when she was playing when she should have been doing dishes. Having to sit in the rocking chair and rock while Mother did the dishes was a lot harder than that stack of dishes would have been. A harsh word, which rarely came, was better than a razor strap to bring tears to the eyes of little ones who needed disciplined.

Her virtues are many. She stays young in spirit – keen and alert to the world around her. One of the ward's young likable fellows summed it up this way, when he turned to the fellow next to him and said, "She's sure a cute kid!"

Throughout her life, a life burdened with toil and fraught with financial cares, she somehow managed to find time for service to others, to her church, her community and her family. She counseled them well with wisdom, love, faith, honesty and kindness.

Through the years she remains a shining example of stalwart characteristics to us and our ideal to follow.

Mother, as a small token of love and appreciation for the many things you have done for us, all the sacrifices that you have made for us, we, as a family would like to present you with these 13 roses, representing your 8 children and 5 step-children, and say again, "We love you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Heber City  
Feb. 27, 1913

## Patriarchal Blessing

*For easier reading we have typed a copy of the original copy of a patriarchal blessing given to Minnie S. Witt (McDonald.) This blessing was given about two years after the death of her first husband, James Taylor Witt.*

A blessing by Thomas Hicken, patriarch, upon the head of Minnie S. Witt, daughter of John and Bertha Sonderegger. Born Sept. 9, 1885 at Midway, Wasatch County, Utah.

Sister Minnie Witt, In the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of the holy priesthood vested in me, I lay my hands upon your head and place upon you a patriarchal blessing. Thou art of the seed of Ephraim and the Lord has chosen you to be a mother in Israel. You shall have much comfort in your posterity. They will be a blessing unto you in after life. The spirit of the Lord shall be your comforter to comfort you by day and by night that you shall have strength given unto you to bear up under all your afflictions, that you are called to pass through here in mortality. Your guarding angel shall watch over you continually, that you shall be preserved from the powers of evil and have power to work out your salvation here in the flesh. In as much as you are faithful to your covenants you shall have the privilege of again uniting with your husband in the morning of the first resurrection. Therefore put your trust in the Lord and all things shall be overruled for your good. You shall have strength given you according to the day you are called to pass through.

These blessings I seal upon you by the power and the authority of the holy priesthood vested in me and I seal you up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection.

Even so, Amen

HEBER CITY, UTAH, JANUARY 24, 1914. \*\*\*91

**A Blessing** given by Hyrum G. Smith, Patriarch, upon the head of MINNIE (SONDEREGGER) WITT.

son, daughter, of JOHN and BERTHA (BUEHLER) SONDEREGGER.

born SEPTEMBER 9, 1885, at MIDWAY, WASATCH COUNTY, UTAH.

SISTER MINNIE S. WITT, in the name of Jesus Christ, I place my hands upon thy head and give unto thee a Father's Blessing which is also Patriarchal, and which will be a comfort and a guide unto thee thru life. For thou art of Ephraim, and an heir unto the blessings promised unto the daughters in Israel born under the New and Everlasting Covenant. Thus far in life the Lord has accepted thy labors; He has seen thy trials and thy devotions; He has extended His hand many times to preserve thy life. And if thou wilt heed the whisperings of that Still Small Voice, thou shalt be guided in thy duties both temporal and spiritual, and be preserved in health, that thy life's mission may be completed successfully. And I say unto thee, Be of good cheer, for many blessings are in store for thee, and thy life is precious unto the Lord; and because of thy faith and diligence in His service, thou shalt be provided for, and shall not suffer for the necessities or comforts of this life; and the yearnings of thy heart shall not be in vain, but thy prayers shall prevail for good. Therefore, be comforted, Continue to seek the Lord in humility, to learn thy duties and cultivate courage to perform them, and thou shalt be blessed with an influence for good where ever thy lot may be cast, whether among kindred, or strangers, at home or abroad. And I say unto thee also, Hold sacred thy covenants, and cherish the teachings of those who are near and dear unto thee, and as long as thou wilt acknowledge the hand of the Lord in thy blessings, thou shalt not be left in doubt concerning thy mission in life, nor in need of friends, or the necessities of life, but shall be provided for from day to day, and receive joy and satisfaction in the labors of thy hands.

I seal this blessing upon thy head by virtue of the holy Priesthood, and in the name of Jesus Christ, and I seal thee up to come forth at the day of redemption in thy proper place among thy kindred and loved ones. Even so. Amen.

Approved

*Hyrum G. Smith*  
Presiding Patriarch.

*"Sweet Sixteen"-- 1901*



*Minnie Sonderegger*



*Two Beautiful Sisters*



*Minnie's sister, Bertha (Wilson) on the left, and Minnie on the right*

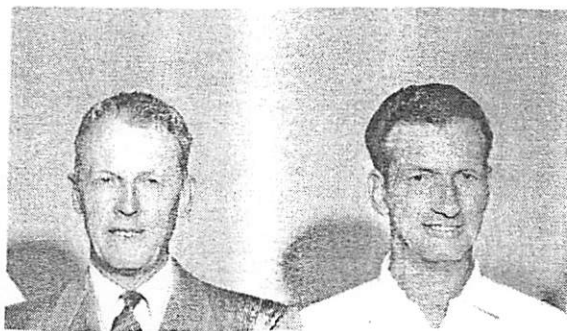
*The Sonderegger Sisters and Their Mother*



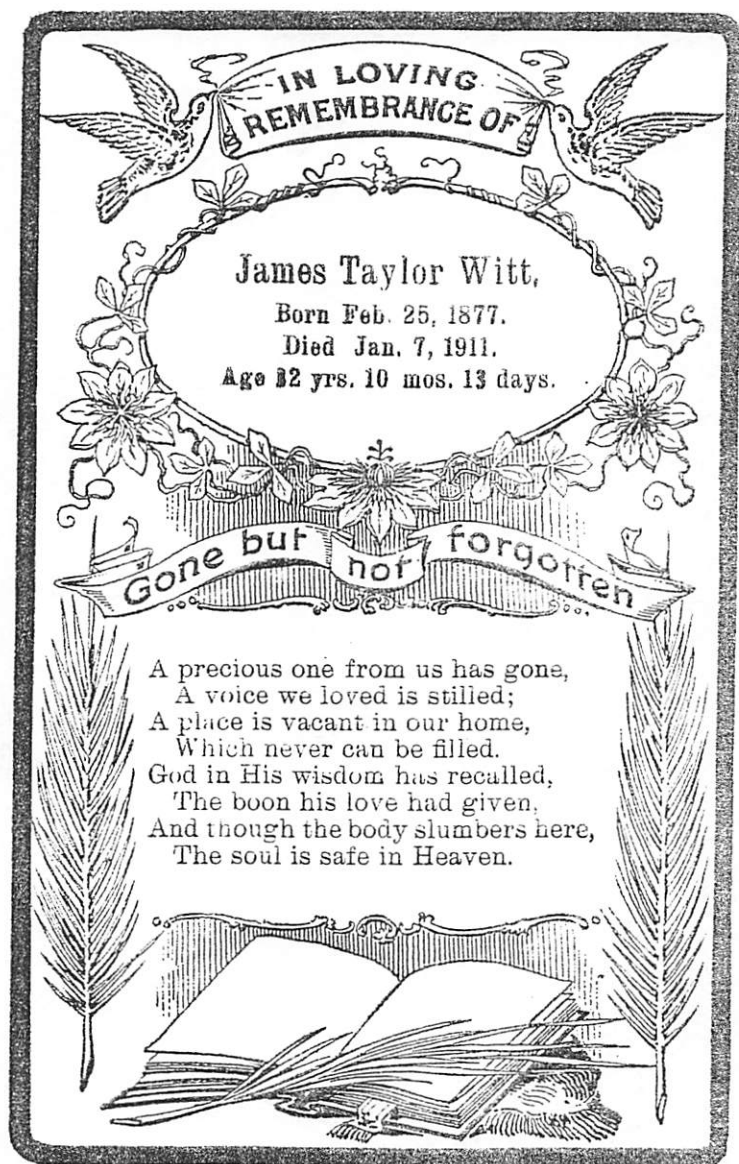
Top Row: **Minnie Witt McDonald**, Bertha Wilson, Louise Clegg,  
Bottom Row: Ida Anderson, Emma Nelson, Bertha Buehler Sonderegger (Mother)



James Taylor Witt -- Minnie's youthful love and first marriage. James died of blood poisoning after a mine accident.



Minnie's and James' two sons -- Melvin and Kenneth Witt

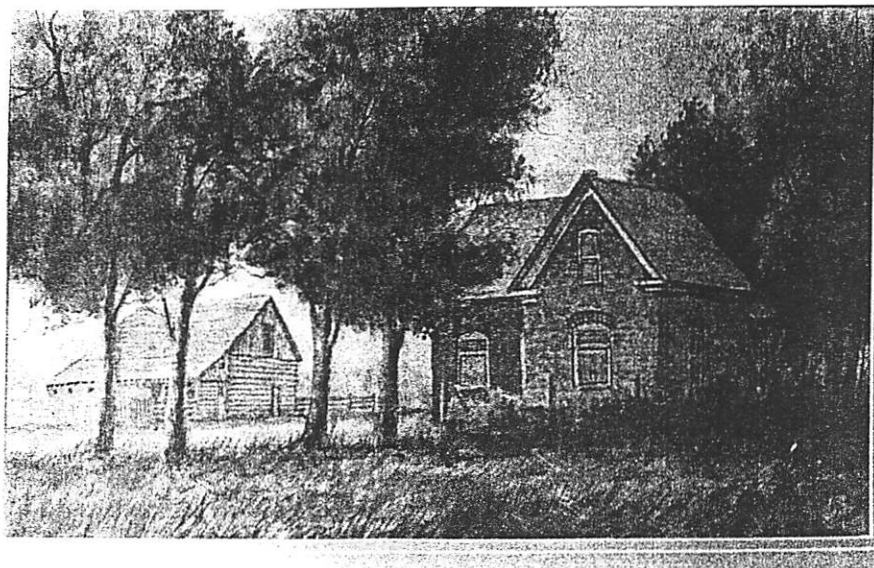


A precious one from us has gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home,  
Which never can be filled.  
God in His wisdom has recalled,  
The boon his love had given,  
And though the body slumbers here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven.





Joseph C McDonald -- Minnie's later love  
and second husband. Minnie and Joseph had six children.



Their home and farm in Daniel, Utah



*Back Row: Glenn, Vernon, Melvin Witt, Kenneth Witt, Hiram  
Front Row: Eugena Carlen, Minnie, Leah Houtz, Barbara Moulton*



*Minnie on her 80th Birthday, 1965  
An open house was held in her honor.*



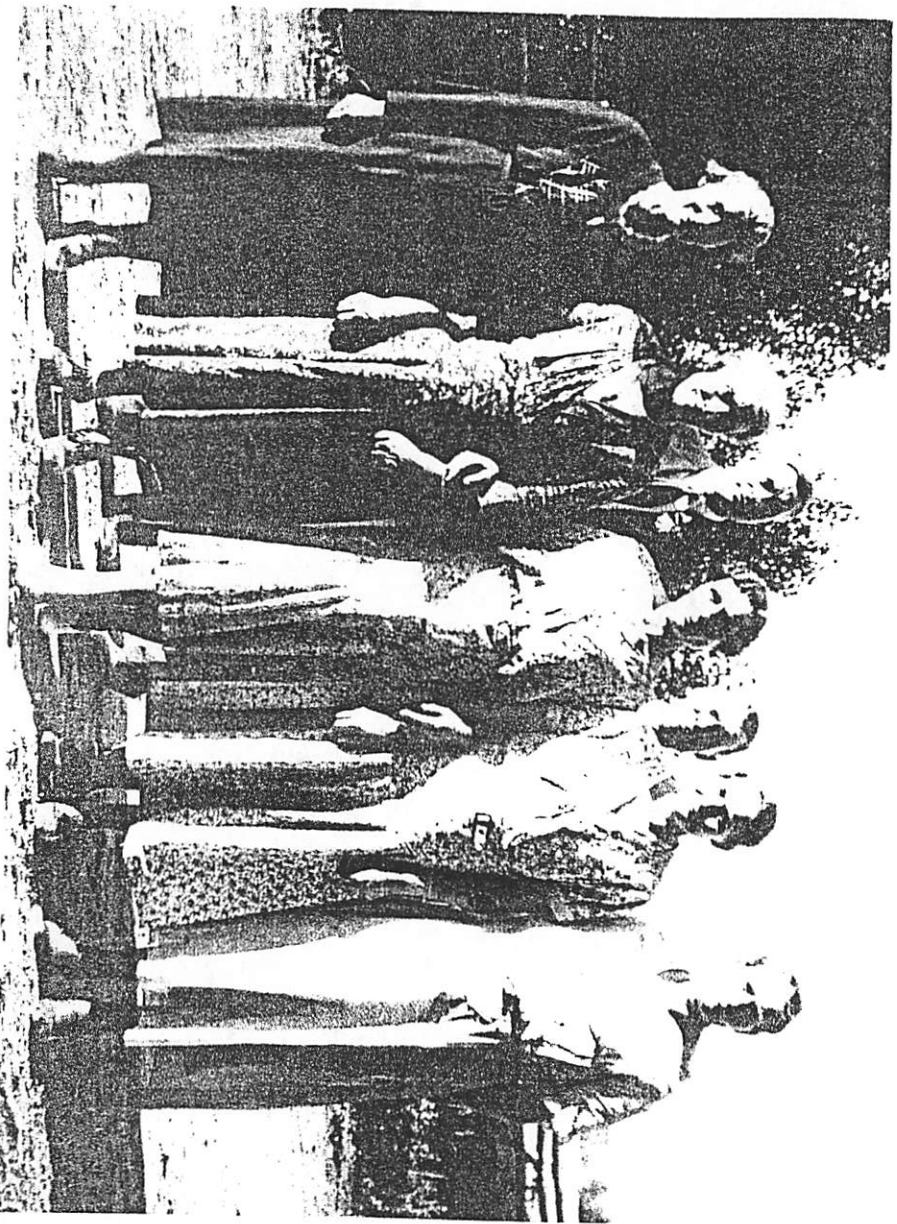
*Minnie's and Joseph's children and their spouses -- about 1975  
Left to right: Hiram and Anne (Rasband), Glenn and Carol (Hertell), Earl and Leah Houtz,  
Evan and Eugena Carlen, Melvin and Barbara Moulton, Vernon and Louise (Heaton)*





*Minnie and Her Sisters*

*No one had more fun being together than these five sisters.  
From left: Louise Clegg, Minnie, Emma Nelson, Ida Anderson, Bertha Wilson*



*Brothers and Sisters: Minnie, Bertha Wilson, John Sonderegger, Emma Nelson, Fred Sonderegger, Ida Anderson, Louise Clegg*



### Snapshots of Minnie

Picture on the top right shows Minnie in the 1962 Wasatch County Fair Days Parade when she was Wasatch County "Mother of the Year." Minnie dressed very nicely, always wearing a hat.





**Minnie**

Minnie always enjoyed time spent with her brothers and sisters.



Bertha Wilson, Ida Anderson and Minnie -- along with wearing a hat she most often carried white gloves.



Minnie, John, and Ida Anderson -- Note the hat again.



Brother John visiting Minnie -- 1961



# Mrs. McDonald Named Local Mother of the Year

Minnie McDonald, daughter of a Swiss immigrant mother widowed with eight young children, and herself widowed twice with young families to rear, has been named Wasatch County's "Mother of the Year."

She will enter competition next month for the Utah Title. Winner of the state honor will go to New York City for the national finals.

**MINNIE SONDEREGGER** Witt McDonald was born on September 9, 1885 in Midway, one of nine children of Swiss immigrants. Her parents first met in Salt Lake City and were married in 1879, in



Mrs. Minnie McDonald  
Wasatch "Mother of Year"

as a waitress at a mine exploration camp in Snake Creek Canyon and at 16 took over all the cooking for 25 men at the camp.

Minnie met her first husband, James T. Witt at one of the mining camps. Three years later they were married in Midway on June 6, 1906. The marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple.

Two sons were born to the couple before Jim was injured in a mining accident and passed away Jan. 7, 1911.

**THROUGH MUTUAL** friends Minnie met Joseph C. McDonald, a widower with five children and were married in the Salt Lake Temple January 26, 1916.

Three of Joe's children were still living at home, and these Minnie took under her wing and reared along with her two boys. In the years that followed, six more children were born.

For 17 years Minnie lived the life of a bishop's wife. She was made Primary president, a position she held for 12 years. She already had served as a counselor for 5 years in the Heber 2nd Ward.

**JOSEPH DIED** ON July 2, 1937 leaving her with a second family to rear, six children under the age of 21.

More years of struggle were in store for Minnie as the family concentrated their efforts on farming in order to make a living. Finally, with her last child in college and left alone, she moved to Heber to a "retirement" house built by one of her sons.

Throughout her life Minnie has been dedicated to her family, her church and her community. She encouraged her children in music

and educational pursuits, as well as church activity.

**SHE HAS SEWN** and given away many hundreds of pieces of fancywork, including lace, quilts,

afghans, etc. During World Wars I and II she made many knitted articles for the Red Cross. Her home is always a model of cleanliness, she keeps a well-kept yard and her cakes, breads and fruit have been enjoyed by those she is always so willing to give to.

She served as secretary for the Daniel Telephone Co. for 10 years, has done extensive genealogical work and has kept a keen interest in the world.

**HER CHILDREN** run the gamut of occupational interests and have enjoyed a great measure of success in their chosen work.

She has eight children, one step-daughter, 25 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. They are as follows: Melvin J. Witt, Moccasin, California, Kenneth S. Witt, Provo; Eugena Carlen, Springville; Vernon J., Hiram S., and Glenn A., all of Salt Lake City; Leah Houtz, Midway, Barbara Moulton, Heber, and Cora Wathen, Murray.

**THE FATHER'S DEATH** left the young family with very limited resources and all the children old enough sought any type of work that might augment the family's meager income.

During this time Minnie spent many long hours weeding grain for 35 cents a day, working from sunup to sundown along with the other children to help provide for the family. They also took care of the farm, herding cows, helping to harvest the hay and doing other farm jobs.

**AS MINNIE GREW** older, she began doing housework for employment when she was only 12 years old. At 14 she hired out

Wasatch County "Mother of the Year" -- 1962

## Utah "Mother of the Year" Nominee — 1962

### Salt Lake Tribune



Mrs. Myrtle  
Wilcken



Mrs. Minnie  
McDonald



Mrs. Mildred  
Odette



Mrs. Crystal  
Sampson



Mrs. Lydia  
Butterfield



Mrs. Dora  
Gourley

## Six Districts Nominate '62 Mother

The names of six District "Mothers of the Year" were announced Monday by Mrs. Walter A. Kerr, Utah chairman, American Mothers Committee, Inc.

**THE COMMITTEE** each year sponsors a search for a representative mother on whom to confer the honor of reigning as "American Mother of the Year."

Each of 12 Utah districts have nominated a District Mother, from whom the "Utah Mother of the Year" will be chosen, Mrs. Kerr said.

**THE UTAH MOTHER** will represent her state at the annual Mother's Day ceremony in May at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, where the American Mother will be named.

The six nominated so far include Mrs. Lydia Fern C. B. Butterfield, Herriman, Central District; Mrs. Crystal J. Sampson, Richfield, Sanpete-Sevier District; Mrs. Dora W. Gourley, Pleasant Grove, Timpagnos District; Mrs. Mildred Freda P. Odette, Monticello, Eastern District; Mrs. Myrtle Lizetta M. Wilcken, Duchesne, Uintah Basin District, and Mrs. S. W. McDonald, Heber, Wasatch District.

**MRS. BUTTERFIELD**, wife of John A. Butterfield, Herriman farmer and livestock producer, was a member of American Fork High School's first graduating class.

She has been a teacher for 14 years, and served 19 years as a substitute teacher.

**HER FOUR SONS** include an electrical draftsman, an artist draftsman and designer, supervisor of an ordnance plant and a construction foreman.

**SHE HAS BEEN** active in community service, fulfilling many community assignments. A licensed practical nurse, she has served in community nursing without remuneration since 1931.

Her 10 sons and daughters are active in LDS Church and community work.

**MRS. GOURLEY IS** the widow of David Gourley, prominent Utah educator, who was superintendent of Granite School District at the time of his death.

Mrs. Gourley has been active in auxiliaries of the LDS Church and in the Parent-Teacher Assn. Her 11 sons and daughters all have followed their father in the education field.

**MRS. ODETTE** is married to L. A. Odette, farmer and operator of a drive-in cafe in Monticello. She has been active in organizations of the Catholic Church and has held positions of responsibility in the Parent-Teacher Assn., her county's fair board, health council, Red Cross and Republican Women's Club.

Her two sons are teachers, and her daughter a licensed beauty operator.

Mrs. Wilcken is the widow of George H. Wilcken, who was Duchesne's justice of the peace.

**SHE HAS SERVED** many years in LDS Church auxiliaries, and has been organist and chorister in many community and church groups. She has won many prizes at county fairs for her fruit, rugs, vegetables, flowers and flower arrangements.

**MRS. WILCKEN** has endured the hardships of pioneering and shared with the community her talents of sewing, cooking, nursing the sick and assisting at the birth of children and preparing the dead for burial.

Mrs. Wilcken has nine sons and daughters, 31 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**MRS. McDONALD** has been active in the LDS Relief Society and Primary organizations, as well as the DUP and Red Cross.

Through the lean years of raising her family, which included five stepchildren, she refused all help offered, and "sewed patches on patches, but always saw that the children had music lessons." She has always counseled her children with love.



## 80th Birthday -- 1965

### Minnie S. McDonald To Be Honored At Open House

The family of Mrs. Minnie S. McDonald cordially invites all of her friends and relatives to an open house in honor of her 80th birthday on Sunday, September 5 from 2:00 P. M. to 6:00 p. m. at the Heber 1st-6th Ward Cultural Hall.



Mrs. Minnie S. McDonald

She was born in Midway, Utah, on September 9, 1885, the daughter of Johannes and Bertha Buhler Sonderegger. She was married to James T. Witt in 1906. They were the parents of Melvin and Kenneth Witt. Mr. Witt died in 1911. She married Joseph C. McDonald in 1916. They were the parents of the following children: Eugena Carlen, Springville; Vernon, Glenn, Salt Lake City; Hiram, Bountiful; Leah Houtz, Midway; Barbara Moulton, Heber. She has 28 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Mr. McDonald died in 1937.

All of her life she has kept active with her family, church work, community activities and hobbies.

She especially enjoys the association of friends and neighbors and would enjoy visiting with them.

No gifts please.

### '62 Mother Of Year Dies At 83

Died -- November 22, 1968

HEBER CITY — Minnie Sonderegger Witt McDonald, 83, Heber, Wasatch County Mother

of the Year in 1962, died Friday in a Heber hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage.

A member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mrs. McDonald served in ward Primary Association presidencies for 17 years, and as a stake Relief Society missionary for 1½ years.

She also was a member of the Forget-Me-Not camp, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, and was active in Red Cross work and civic affairs.

She was born Sept. 9, 1885, in Midway, Wasatch County, a daughter of John and Bertha Buhler Sonderegger. She married James Taylor Witt June 6, 1906, in Midway. Their marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. He died Jan. 7, 1911.

She married Joseph C. McDonald Jan. 26, 1916, in the Salt Lake Temple. He died July 2, 1957.

Survivors include four sons and three daughters, Melvin Witt, Moccasin, Calif.; Vernon McDonald, Salt Lake City; Hiram McDonald and Glenn McDonald, both Bountiful; Mrs. Evans (Eugena) Carlen, Springville; Mrs. Earl (Leah) Houtz, Midway; Mrs. Melvin (Barbara) Moulton, Heber City; one step-daughter, Mrs. Henry (Cora) Wathen, Murray; a brother, John Sonderegger, Cape Cod, Mass.; a sister, Mrs. Charles (Ida) Anderson, Heber City; 29 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and step-grandchildren and step great-grandchildren.











Funeral services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in the Heber Sixth Ward chapel, 325 E. 2nd North, Heber City. Friends may call Sunday, 7-9 p.m., and Monday before services at Olpin Mortuary in Heber City. Burial will be in Heber City Cemetery.

HUSBAND Joseph "C" McDonald  
 Birth 8 Oct 1866  
 Place Heber City, Wasatch, Utah  
 Chr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Married 26 Jan 1916  
 Place Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah  
 Death 2 Jul 1937 Daniel, Wasatch, Utah  
 Burial 7 Jul 1937 Heber City, Wasatch, Utah  
 Father Joseph Smith McDonald  
 Mother\* Nancy Elizabeth Cummings  
 Other Wives (if any) Mary Elizabeth Giles



WIFE Minnie Sonderegger  
 Birth 9 Sep 1885  
 Place Midway, Wasatch, Utah  
 Chr. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Death 22 Nov 1968 Heber City, Wasatch, Utah  
 Burial 25 Nov 1968 Heber City, Wasatch, Utah  
 Father Johannes Sonderegger  
 Mother\* Bertha Buehler  
 Other Hus (if any) James Taylor Witt  
 Where was information obtained? Records of Leah Houtz & family  
 \*List complete maiden name for all females. records



		1st Child <u>Eugena McDonald</u> Birth <u>10 Feb 1917</u> Place <u>Daniel, Wasatch, Utah</u> Married to <u>Casper Evans Carlen</u> Married <u>24 Dec 1934</u> Place <u>Provo, Utah, Utah</u>
		2nd Child <u>Vernon "J" McDonald</u> Birth <u>8 Nov 1919</u> Place <u>Daniel, Wasatch, Utah</u> Married to <u>Louise Heaton</u> Married <u>24 Sep 1946</u> Place <u>St. George, Washington, Utah</u>
		3rd Child <u>Leah McDonald</u> Birth <u>28 Oct 1921</u> Place <u>Daniel, Wasatch, Utah</u> Married to <u>Earl Watson Houtz</u> Married <u>3 Jul 1940</u> Place <u>Manti, Sanpete, Utah</u>
		4th Child <u>Hiram Smith McDonald</u> Birth <u>27 Jan 1925</u> Place <u>Daniel, Wasatch, Utah</u> Married to <u>Anne Mauree Rasband</u> Married <u>6 Mar 1952</u> Place <u>Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah</u>
		5th Child <u>Barbara McDonald</u> Birth <u>15 Dec 1926</u> Place <u>Daniel, Wasatch, Utah</u> Married to <u>John Melvin Moulton</u> Married <u>16 Sep 1946</u> Place <u>Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah</u>



6th Child Glenn Alvin McDonald  
 Birth 29 Feb 1932  
 Place Daniel, Wasatch, Utah  
 Married to Carol Hertell  
 Married 14 Jul 1954  
 Place Logan, Cache, Utah

